

Applicant: Rolf Larsson
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REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application.

Applicant notes with thanks and appreciation that claims 7 and 8 and 10-14 were found to have allowable subject matter but were objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim.

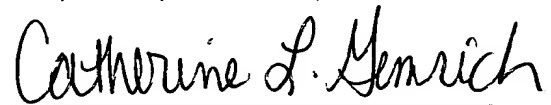
Claims 1 and 3-6 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO97/48517 (*Larsson*) in view of US Patent 6045028 (*Martin*). Accompanying this response is the certified priority document. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Larsson* and *Martin* are not prior art and that claims 1 and 3-6 are patentable.

Claims 2 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Larsson* and *Martin* in further view of US Patent 5484315 (*Juengst*). *Larsson* and *Martin* are not prior art. *Juengst* does not teach or suggest an apparatus for welding with all the limitations of claim 2 or claim 9. Accordingly, these claims are patentable.

CONCLUSION

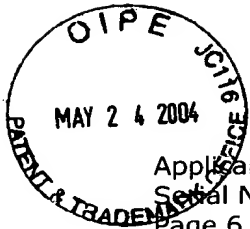
Having obviated the Examiner's objections, Applicant hereby seeks an early indication of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine L. Gemrich
Attorney for Applicant
Registration Number 50473

DRUM & ROTH
53 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604-3606
TELEPHONE: 312.922.6262
FAX: 312.922.7747



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 19, 2004.

Chrissy Stein

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